

AMERICAN DRAGON: JAKE LONG

"Family Business"

(777A-205)

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FADE IN:

INT. HOME-EC CLASS - DAY

THE COVER - 'MAGICWEEK' magazine -- A MUMMY IN A COFFIN
having a panic attack. The subtitle: 'CLAUSTROPHOBIC MUMMY
CRIES UNCLE'.

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*

PAN ACROSS the TITLES OF OTHER ARTICLES: 'OUR BODIES OUR
ELVES', 'DOES YOUR YETI HAVE COLD FEET?' The pages FLIP over
a QUICK SERIES OF ARTICLES: 1) A WEREWOLF and a PIXIE walk a
red carpet over the caption: CINDY CLAWFORD and PIXIE LOHAN.
2) a MAGICAL FASHION spread with magical creatures wearing
the SAME PINK SUN HAT. 3) A CYCLOPS in a milk bath a la the
famous Whoopi Goldberg shot.

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PULL OUT to TRIxie and SPUD huddled around Jake, who is
showing them the magazine.

*

1 JAKE

Guess who's gonna be on the cover
of the next issue of MagicWeek?

*

Jake puts on a serious supermodel face and turns side to
side, then ramps it up with model moves. He does a 'fashion
turn', looks back and flips his jacket over his shoulder.

*

*

TRIXIE & SPUD shake their heads baffled.

2 JAKE

Me! Check it -- Jake Long,
international supermodel by day,
mad skillz dragon by night.

3 TRIxie

Oh, snap. Way to work the runway!

4 SPUD

(impressed)

Dude. Try super chick magnet by
day. How'd it happen?

5 JAKE

Just gettin' the props I deserve
for kickin' it as the American
Dragon... and (touches his face)
<sizzling noise> ouch!, my smokin'
good looks obviously didn't hurt.
The photo shoot's on Monday.

*

*

*

SUN PARK pops her head between then. Jake quickly puts the magazine away.

6 SUN
I don't want to seem like an
'authority figure' here, but I was
wondering if you meant to burn your
rice pudding to a crisp?

ON A POT - smoking and boiling over with black sticky goo.

7 JAKE
Ah... yeah -- Spud's all about the
well-done pudding.

JAKE shoves a spoon of the gloppy mess into Spud's mouth. His eyes bug, but he gives it a thumbs up.

8 SPUD
Mmmm--<mouth closed mouth burning
scream>.

*

9 SUN
Well then, groovy! Good job, gang.
And remember, let your instincts
guide you.

Sun turns to leave. Spud takes another bite. It <CRUNCHES>.

10 SPUD
Once your buds have been burnt off,
it's kinda deliciouso!

*

*

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - NIGHT

*

A GANG OF <SNARLING> HOBGOBLINS (FOUR OR FIVE) are rampaging. The creatures are five feet tall with knife-sharp teeth and spikes coming off their backs and arms.

*

*

PULL BACK TO JAKE - FULL DRAGON - flying over them with Fu Dog on his back. As they watch the hobgoblins...

11 FU DOG
<shudders> Ech. Rampaging
hobgoblins. As mean as they are
ugly, and prettier than they are
smart. Better call the old man for
backup.

12 JAKE

Fu, they don't do cover stories on
dudes who need backup.

JAKE - swoops down and drops Fu off at the water's edge. As
Jake flies off, Fu yells after him...

*
*

13 FU DOG

Kid, hobgoblins are nothin' to mess
with. You do not wanna take this
mission on mano-y-hobgoblano!
Comprendo?

*
*
*
*

A HOBGOBLIN, hidden in shadow, holds the back of a car as the
<WHEELS SCREECH>, then <SMASHES> it. The car <BEEPS>.

*

14 HOBGOBLIN 1

Smash cars. Go beeeep. Fun.

*

BIRD'S EYE VIEW as Jake flies in over the action.

15 JAKE

<helicopter sounds> This is metro
traffic flying high over the scene
of a soon-to-be hobgoblin pile up.

JAKE flies low and slow, practicing poses as he goes. Two
hobgoblins chase him.

16 JAKE

No autographs, boys. You can buy
the magazine from the newsstand
like everybody else.

He passes through two suspension wires, but the hobgoblins
are too wide to fit. They jam into the space.

17 HOBGOBLIN 1/HOBGOBLIN 2

<getting stuck grunt!>

JAKE - flies to the top of the suspension wire and lands.

THE HOBGOBLINS - grab the perpendicular wires, and pull
themselves quickly up to the top suspension wire.

18 JAKE

Time to ride the rails!

JAKE - using his feet as a skateboard, rides down the wire
like it's a handrail. As he rides over the hands of--

HOBGOBLIN 1 & 2 - they <SCREECH> in pain, falling to the
pedestrian walkway below.

*

JAKE - looks back, thrilled at his work, when a hobgoblin reaches up, grabbing his foot. Jake hits the suspension wire between his legs, spins around it, and falls off.

19 JAKE
<pain hit!>

THE HOBGOBLINS - tie Jake up with wires from the bridge, hanging him from the highest point. HOBGOBLIN 1 comes close to Jake's face with his fist raised.

20 JAKE
Dude, watch the face. I gotta photo shoot on Monday.

21 HOBGOBLIN 1
Pretty face go bye-bye.

JAKE struggles to break his bonds when A BLAST OF FIRE comes from nowhere and explodes in front of the hobgoblins, backing them off.

22 JAKE
Gramps, what took you so long?
(beat) Yo, G?!

*
*

23 HALEY (O.C.)
Yo, H is more like it!

HALEY steps out of the shadows as a DRAGON.

24 JAKE
Haley?!

Off of Jake's stunned reaction, we-

SMASH CUT TO: *

OPENING TITLES

ACT ONE

EXT. BROOKLYN BRIDGE - NIGHT - BACK TO SCENE

*

REESTABLISH - Jake, struggling with great effort, hangs from a tangle of wires as Haley stands below him in front of the gang of hobgoblins.

*

*

25 JAKE
<effort> Haley!! What're you doing?

ANOTHER DRAGON (SUN) steps out of the shadows.

26 SUN
Haley -- prepare to fight. Let your instincts guide you.

JAKE -- confused.

27 JAKE
Huh... who is that?!

Haley and Sun get into fighting position.

28 SUN
Use what you know -- round-off!

Haley does a dragon version of a gymnastics looking round-off knocking a hobgoblin off the bridge.

29 HALEY
<various impact grunts>

30 HOBGOBLINS
<various impact grunts>

Haley jumps onto a railing where a hobgoblin balances.

31 SUN
Balance beam!

Haley does a few flips like an Olympic gymnast doing a balance beam act. She knocks a hobgoblin off the rail, then bounces back the other way to knock another one off. Haley does an elaborate dismount, then thrusts her back out, and, arms in the air, she turns to all four corners.

32 HALEY
I did it! My first dragon battle,
and I did great! (truly impressed)
How do I do it?!

*

*

SUN watches as Jake struggles in his wires.

33 SUN
Jake, do you need help?

34 JAKE
Okay, who are you?!

35 SUN
I am the Korean Dragon --

She TRANSFORMS back to her human self.

36 SUN
-- but you know me as Sun Park.

JAKE - his face contorts with confusion.

37 JAKE
Whoa-what... Sun?! But, you're my
hom-ec teacher!

JAKE TRANSFORMS back into his human-self. Smaller, the wires now loose, he SLIPS out and falls, hitting different levels of wires that break his fall. As he falls, A PIECE OF HIS PANTS catch a broken wire and <RIP>, pulling his pants off.

38 JAKE
Whoaahhhhhh! Oof! Ah! Oh! UMPHT!

Jake (wearing boxer shorts) hits the ground on the pedestrian walkway that runs high above the driving portion of the bridge. (It's cordoned off by construction barriers, clear of any pedestrians.) He lands at the feet of Sun and shakes his head, unable to fathom what he's seeing. *

FLASH - a small mod-looking FAIRY (SAM) flutters up to him, takes his picture with his TINY CAMERA, then takes a card out of his pocket. *

39 SAM
Sam Spark, MagicWeek Magazine. I
thought I'd grab some ho-hum
candid, but -- 'cha-ching!' My
editor's gonna love how candid
these are. *

40 HALEY
Oooo, the press!
(to Sam)
My name is Haley. Spelled H-A-L-- *

SAM - ignores Haley, patting her dismissively on the head, pushing her out of his way.

41 SAM

Yeah, uh... you're in my shot.

He FLASHES more pictures. Jake flinches with each flash.

42 JAKE

Okay, hold up. I'm standing here in my underwear in front of a reporter, my little sister and my home-ec teacher? This can't be real-- (beat) Oh, I get it. This is one of those stress dreams! I'm totally dreaming!

JAKE's whole demeanor changes.

43 JAKE

I love it when you realize you're in the middle of a dream. You can do whatever you want to-- Wassssuuuup, Sunshine!

*
*

He reaches up and TOUSLES SUN'S HAIR, THEN PINCHES HER CHEEKS. Next, Jake starts to dance, shaking his boxer-clad butt and 'raising the roof' for the camera.

*
*
*

44 JAKE

Come on y'all! Raise the roof!
(singing)
Shake what your daddy gave ya!
Shake it like it just might save ya! Can I get a wooop-wooooop?!

REACTION SHOTS -- 1.) Haley with her jaw dropped 2.) Sun stone faced 3.) Sam <SNAPPING> photos.

*

JAKE - is just starting to realize something's wrong.

45 JAKE

No? How 'bout just a heeaaay--?
(then, with dread)
This isn't a dream, is it?

*
*
*

As Sun and Haley shake their heads, Jake covers up.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - THAT NIGHT

Grandpa angrily confronts Sun. Haley, Jake and Fu Dog watch.

46 GRANDPA
Already you take her into battle?!
What were you thinking?

47 SUN
If Haley is to be Jake's backup,
she needs to be prepared.

*
*

Haley takes Grandpa's hand.

48 HALEY
It's okay, Grandpa. I know Jake
always complains about how hard it
is to be the American Dragon, but
it seemed pretty easy to me!

49 GRANDPA
Sun, since you appear to be rusty
on training basics, Jake and I will
join you for a refresher course.
Starting tomorrow afternoon.

Sun nods to Grandpa, and she and Haley leave.

50 JAKE
Uh, Gramps? Can you please tell me
what the heck is going on? Why is
Haley being trained when she's only
eight years old?

*

51 GRANDPA
Haley became aware of her dragon
powers at a younger age, so she
must be trained at a younger age.

*
*
*

Jake takes this in. It doesn't make him feel better.

52 JAKE
But, why didn't anyone tell me?

Fu and Grandpa exchange looks.

53 FU DOG
Kid, Haley's your Achilles heel.
So, we were sorta waitin' for the
right time. We knew once you found
out, you'd be lookin' over your
shoulder all the time waiting for
her to show you up.

*
*
*

54 JAKE
 (lying)
 Haley? Show *this* up? Yeah. Right.

FLASH TO:

INT. LONG KITCHEN - DAY - FLASHBACK

7-YEAR-OLD JAKE and TODDLER HALEY sit at the table drawing with crayons. MOM picks up Jake's drawing and puts it on the fridge. THE PICTURE is a line drawing of a house and yard.

Then Mom looks at Haley's picture. It is a Van Gogh-esque picture of a cottage and a field of flowers. She <GASPS> and pins HALEY'S PICTURE over Jake's. Haley smiles; Jake frowns.

FLASH TO:

INT. RECITAL HALL - FLASHBACK

JAKE - dressed to impress, sits at a piano and slowly bangs out 'CHOPSTICKS'.

HALEY - wanders onto the stage, sits down at the piano facing his, and PLAYS MOZART like a virtuoso. <APPLAUSE>. She bows, flowers thrown to her feet, as Jake slowly taps out the final NOTES of his tune even worse than before.

FLASH TO:

INT. LONG HOUSE - MOM'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK

MOM lies in bed. A PAJAMA-CLAD JAKE enters with a BOWL OF OATMEAL that has a sad, crooked raisin smiley face on it.

*
 *

55 JAKE
 Happy Mother's Day!

A SILK PAJAMA-CLAD HALEY comes in wheeling a portable grill and presentation table with her. She quickly SCULPTS a piece of ice into a statue of her mother, then flips, dices and spices up a GORGEOUS PLATE OF CREPES.

56 HALEY
 Bonne Fête des Mères! That's Happy
 Mother's Day in French!

*
 *

As MOM takes the plate, Jake turns and walks out.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - BACK TO SCENE

57 JAKE

Okay. She's my Achilles heel. So,
does she *have* to start training
this week? I don't know if you
remember, but I got press!

*

*

58 GRANDPA

Jake, I allowed this photo shoot
because I remember fondly my own
years as a magical pinup boy--

INSERT PHOTO - YOUNG GRANDPA with a cowboy hat on, shirtless,
in overalls, lying on a bale of hay staring at camera with a
"come hither" look. A piece of hay is lodged in his teeth.

*

BACK ON - Fu and Jake exchange horrified looks.

59 GRANDPA

-and because you promised it would
not interfere with your work as the
American Dragon!

60 JAKE

<sigh> Okay. It won't.

Grandpa nods and then leaves. Jake sits at the table,
despondent, next to Fu.

*

61 JAKE

At least tonight can't get any
worse.

*

There's A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. Jake opens it. His face drops.

*

REVERSE - The GRIM REAPER stands there. QUICK THUNDER &
LIGHTNING FX.

62 JAKE

Okay, it just did.

63 FU DOG

Marty?

64 MARTY

Fu! You ol' dog you!

Fu runs over and hugs Marty. Jake shakes his head, not sure
what's going on.

65 JAKE
Uh, hello. Little freaked out here.

*

Fu introduces Marty.

66 FU DOG
Jake, I want you to meet my old
buddy, Marty the Grim Reaper.
Probably the best practical joker
this side of Hades.

Marty turns to Jake.

67 MARTY
Pull my finger. Go on.

*

Jake rolls his eye and pulls Marty's finger. IT COMES OFF.

68 MARTY
<blood curdling scream> Ha-ha.
Didn't expect that, did ya?!
<hacking laughter>

*

*

*

69 FU DOG
<laughing> This guy slays me!

Marty turns to Fu, serious.

70 MARTY
Yeah, speaking of that, Fu, I hate
to tell you this but, I'm not here
on a social visit.

*

He puts his hand on Fu's shoulder. QUICK THUNDER & LIGHTNING
FX. Fu sweats. His eyes spin with fear.

71 FU DOG
But, there's so much I haven't
seen! The Great Barrier Reef! The
Grand Canal of Venice! The So-So
Taco Shack of Upper Nyack!

*

*

72 MARTY
Kidding. Kidding!

Fu pulls on his own collar, sweating nervously, then FAINTS.

*

73 FU DOG
Is it a little hot in hee-aaa-
UMPFT!

*

*

*

74 MARTY

Anyhoo, I'm renovating my condo in
TriBeCa... mind if I crash here for
a few days?

*

FU'S PAW reaches up into frame with a THUMBS UP.

*

75 MARTY

(to Jake)

And kid. My finger?

*

*

*

As a grossed-out Jake tosses Marty his finger, we-

*

CUT TO:

EXT. SKATE PARK - NEXT DAY

Jake, Trixie & Spud talk while they skate.

76 SPUD

I knew there was something weird
about Sun. She tried to get me to
put *alfalfa sprouts* in a grilled
cheese sandwich. I told her,
"That's sproutrageous! It's sprun-
American!" I shoulda known. NO ONE
pushes sprouts like that without a
secret to hide!

*

*

*

TRIXIE AND JAKE - push off and skate away down the tube.

77 JAKE

It's not Sun I'm worried about.

78 TRIXIE

Then what are you wiggin about?

79 JAKE

Being the American Dragon's always
been my thing. And *everything else*
in the world has always been
Haley's thing. So why does she have
to get all overachiever on the one
thing I'm good at?

80 TRIXIE

Jakey, can you *really* picture
Little Miss Thang doin' dragon
training?

*

*

RIPPLE DISSOLVE TO:

*

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - BATHROOM - DAY (FANTASY)

Haley is standing with a look of shock on her face. PULL BACK TO REVEAL she's looking into Grandpa's disgusting toilet.

81 HALEY

You want me to do what?! With
what?! I did not put my life on
hold through preschool to get
straight smiley faces so that I
could clean toilets with my tongue!

She storms out.

RIPPLE BACK TO: *

INT. SKATE PARK - BACK TO SCENE - DAY

82 JAKE

(smiling)

You're right. Haley's gonna catch a
whiff of the drag train and be all
'sorry, I don't think so'!

(loving the thought)

Yeah... and I can't wait to see the
first time she gets yelled at by
her Dragon Master...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DRAGON TRAINING FACILITY - AFTERNOON

CLOSE ON HALEY & SUN - facing each other.

83 SUN

Before we start, Haley -- hugs!

CLOSE ON JAKE - as he rolls his eyes.

84 JAKE

Whatever.

WIDE - Jake stands with Fu and Sam in the doorway of a huge,
ultramodern gym with new-age twists. There's a yoga area with
a hammock chair, rain sticks, a massage table and windchimes.

85 JAKE (CONT'D)

At least this new training gym is
stylin'.

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)
 Guess Gramps realized I have an
 obligation to my fans to be livin'
 a bling-bling lifestyle.

86 FU DOG
 Actually, this side is Sun and
 Haley's. The old man wanted you to
 feel at home, so he brought over
 his equipment from the shop.

Fu points. Jake follows to see--

A DANK, DARK, DEPRESSING training space. Like a worn down gym
 from a low-budget Rocky, the paint on the walls is peeling,
 there's water dripping from the ceiling, and a huge vat of
 something sits in the middle of the room. Grandpa stands
 next to the vat, his hands on his hips.

87 GRANDPA
 Jake. Here. Now!

Jake shoots an embarrassed look to Sam who steps over and
 SMACKS POWDER onto Jake's face.

*
 *

88 SAM
 Just pretend I'm not even here. And
 don't look at the camera.

*
 *

SAM - FLASHES a burst of bright flashes in Jake's face. Jake
 is so BLINDED he walks into Grandpa who is less than amused.

*

89 SAM
 I told you not to look!

*
 *

90 JAKE
 Gramps, Haley's gonna have to do
 the same exercises I do, right?

91 GRANDPA
 Yes. Although Sun will be free to
 interpret them in any way she sees
 fit.
 (announcing, to Sun)
 Sun, we will begin with a trust
 exercise.

*
 *
 *

ON JAKE - as he stands on the edge of a platform facing
 backwards. Grandpa and Fu Dog stand below him waiting to
 catch him. Below them is a STEAMING PILE OF SLUDGE.

92 GRANDPA
 Below is the pus of 1000 witches'
 boils. But of course, I will catch
 you.

*

ANGLE DOWN as Jake leans back. He falls, and no one catches him. He lands in the gross grime, then pops back up spitting and sputtering in the vile sludge. *

93 JAKE
Aawwwlllll! Blaaaach! My tongue!
Ruined! Forever!

94 GRANDPA
The lesson, of course, is to trust
no one.

FU runs out with a SCRUB BRUSH and SPRITZER. He scrubs Jake's tongue down, Karen Silkwood-style. His tongue swells up. *

FLASH - Sam grabs Jake's swollen tongue to get a better shot. *

95 JAKE
Heeeeeaaaaa!!! *

96 SAM
Remember, I'm not here. *

Jake looks eagerly over at Haley and Sun's side of the gym.

97 JAKE
Wet'th thee Hawey deaw with thith!

SUN AND HALEY - Haley stands on a platform. She falls, and Sun catches her, twirling her around. Haley <GIGGLES>. *

98 HALEY
<squeals, giggles> That was fun -
let's do it again!

99 SUN
Whatever brings you joy, little
butterfly. Just remember, I will
always be here for you.

JAKE - his speech slurred because his tongue is still sticking out, sees Sam writing, then turns to Grandpa.

100 JAKE
That is tho not fair! Ow. Bit my
tongue.

101 GRANDPA (V.O.)
Next -- strength training.

Off Jake's frown we...

WIPE TO:

INT. DRAGON TRAINING FACILITY - LATER - DAY

Dragon Jake holding up a CORNUCOPIA OF MAGICAL CREATURES,
like the strongman who holds ten people on his back. *

102 GRANDPA

This is to remind us that we hold
up the magical community that lives
around us. *

REVEAL SUN AND HALEY - sitting in the lotus position.

103 SUN

Physical strength fades as the
twilight grows longer. But inner
strength will never leave you. *

ON JAKE - struggling, and mad.

104 JAKE

<struggling efforts> *That's* her
strength exercise?

Jake notices SAM taking notes.

105 JAKE

Pfhht. This is nothin'. Come on
Gramps. Gimme all the test you got!

GRANDPA - nods as we hear a THUMP, THUMP, THUMP. *

WIDEN TO INCLUDE - BIG BERTHA, a giantess, bounding across
the room.

106 BIG BERTHA

Heeeereee IIII cooooooome!

107 JAKE

<terrified shriek> *

BERTHA - jumps on top of Jake who wobbles, but holds on to
his own amazement. He smiles, and POSES for Sam until-- *

THE FLOOR COLLAPSES under him, and he crashes out of view
with all of the animals on top of him. FLASH - Sam leans over
the hole and takes a picture. *

108 SAM

Not here. But, could pull your head
out of Bertha's mouth? Perfect. *

WIPE TO:

INT. DRAGON TRAINING FACILITY - LATER - DAY

109 GRANDPA
Finally, it is important that we
engage in charity work for magical
creatures.

CLOSE ON - the disgusting interior of A GIANT'S MOUTH (BIG BERTHA). The teeth are covered with both rot and trash, and there's graffiti on them. *

A HAND picks gunk out of the teeth. PULL BACK to show Jake is doing the work.

110 JAKE
Bertha, where've you been riding
the trough, girl?

Bertha can't really talk since Jake's hand is in her mouth.

111 BIG BERTHA
Gwarbaaage dwuumwmp.

Jake takes his hand out. It is dripping with slime.

112 BIG BERTHA
Garbage dump. Yum. <BURP!> *

Jake's hair is blown back by the force of her burp. As flies circle his head--

HALEY AND SUN - stand in front of a tiny mirror where Haley braids a sad PIXIE'S HAIR.

113 HALEY
Of course the pixie boys like you!
You've got a winning personality!

114 PIXIE
Really? Wow, thanks Haley!

The Pixie flies away, beaming. Sun looks on, proudly.

115 SUN
If everyone felt as good about
themselves as you just made that
pixie feel, there'd be no more evil
in the world.

JAKE - sticks his hand back into Bertha's mouth.

116 JAKE

Okay, looks like you've got a rotten tooth. This is gonna hurt a little. Sam, wanna get a pictu--

He looks around and doesn't see Sam.

117 JAKE

Sam?!

He shrugs then jerks a tooth out of Bertha's mouth. She <HOWLS> and grabs her mouth with Jake's arm still inside. He dangles from her mouth until she finally spits him out. He tumbles onto the ground just in time to see that --

SAM - is taking pictures of Haley who is making ridiculously cutesy poses. Off Jake's disappointed face we...

*

DISSOLVE TO:

*

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DUSK

Fu walks into the room. He looks around, makes sure he's alone, and then places a WHOOPEE CUSHION on a chair. NOTE: His back is never facing us.

*

*

*

We hear Marty as the door opens...

118 MARTY (O.C.)

Fu, you around?

Fu quickly runs behind the counter. WE STAY ON HIM as he hides with his hand over his mouth to stop his own <GIGGLES>.

WE HEAR - the SOUND OF A HONKING WHOOPEE CUSHION.

119 FU DOG

Gotcha!

FU jumps out, but sees that the whoopee cushion is still fully inflated and Marty is sitting on the other side of the room. Marty waves a newspaper in front of him.

*

120 MARTY

Sorry 'bout that. Sausage roll.
Looks good on the menu, but don't
do it.

*

*

*

Marty rushes towards the bathroom, giggling as he passes Fu .

*

121 MARTY

<giggles> Nice do.

*

Fu turns around and sees that BACKSIDE HAS BEEN SHAVED BALD. *

122 FU DOG
What the--?
(calling after him)
You're gonna pay for that one Marty McGiggles! *

WIPE TO: *

EXT. SUN'S TRAINING STUDIO - DUSK

Jake walks out of the studio. Sam flutters after him.

123 SAM
Hey, kid.

124 JAKE
Sam. Need a hero shot? Want my good side, or my good side? *

Jake turns left and then right, then turns his back to Sam, and then flips around looking over his shoulder. *

125 SAM
Ah, no kid. Listen, I've got great news. I sent my pictures back to my editors, and they loved 'em.

126 JAKE
(excited)
Really?

127 SAM
Yeah. Thing is, what they love... is Haley. So, she's going to be on the cover.

128 JAKE
With me?

129 SAM
Instead of you. But, they love it! That's great, right?

Jake is beyond hurt.

130 JAKE
Haley. Instead of me. That's... the greatest. *

END ACT ONE *

ACT TWO

*

INT. RIVERSIDE DRIVE PARK - NEXT NIGHT

*

Grandpa and Sun stand with Haley and Jake. Sam hovers nearby, camera at the ready. The park is otherwise deserted.

*

131 SAM

So whadda we got here? A little action, a little "night in the life of a dragon" stuff?

*

132 GRANDPA

An ogre has stolen the ancient golden pendant of the leprechaun clan. Without its swift return, the leprechauns will declare war on the ogres.

Sam considers this.

133 SAM

Yeeeah, we're going with a 'cute' angle for Haley's spread. So if we could skip the ogres and wars and focus on something like Haley saving a gnome stuck in a tree, that'd be great.

*
*
*
*
*
*

134 GRANDPA

This is important dragon work, not some teenybopper photo opportunity!

Jake gives Sam and Haley a smug look - who's still the man?

135 GRANDPA

Jake, you will take your sister on this patrol.

136 JAKE

Why does she need me? She's the covergirl!

137 GRANDPA

Jake! Your sister is not ready to go alone. She is your responsibility.

*
*
*

Jake defiantly rolls his eyes. Sun stops them.

*

138 SUN

Ooooh, I'm feeling tension on my solar plexus. I think we'd better do a chakra energy check.

139 JAKE

A-chaka-what-now?

Haley and Sun grab Grandpa and Jake's hands and pull them into a circle.

140 SUN/HALEY

Oooooooooom-alacha-lacha. Oooooooooom-alacha-lacha.

Grandpa and Jake roll their unclosed eyes.

141 GRANDPA

Ahhhhch. This is ridiculous.

*

Sun shoots a glance in their direction, saying sing-song:

142 SUN

Okay, there's some really bad energy coming from someone who shall remain nameless...

She passes her hands around an annoyed Grandpa.

143 GRANDPA

<Chinese muttering>

SUBTITLE: "THIS NITWIT'S HALF-BAKED IDEAS ARE AS FLAKY AS A FINE GERMAN STRUDEL!"

*

*

144 SUN

I don't know what you're saying Lao Shi, but your whole aura is just opening right up!

Grandpa unclenches, looking more at ease.

145 GRANDPA

Yes, I certainly feel better.

WIPE TO:

EXT. RIVERSIDE PARK - PLAYGROUND - NIGHT

*

Jake sulks, walking behind Haley and Sam. Haley is posing.

146 HALEY

Was there something specific about
Jake that your editors didn't like?
I ask because I think it's
important to learn from your
mistakes, but since I don't make
any, I try to learn from Jake's.

A HUGE OGRE stomps over a hill, wearing a GOLD NECKLACE.

147 JAKE

Your mistake was pickin' Haley.
Watch n' learn how the real AmDrag
does business. Dragon up!

Jake <DRAGONS UP>, then flies to the face of the ogre.

148 JAKE

Hey Sam, what makes the best photo-
op? Your options are: A) a slippity
slapdown shake...

Jake's arms <WHIR> into motion, displaying the slippity slap.

149 JAKE

B) A box of Kung-Fu bone crack-a-
lackin' crackers...

Jake let's fly with a Matrix-like move with his legs kicking
faster than the eyes can see.

150 JAKE

C) A blast of hot-tamale hot-breath
hot sauce.

*

Jake <BLASTS> the air with fire.

151 JAKE

Or D) all of the above.

Jake impressively kicks, flips, and <BLASTS> towards the
ogre, who finally fights back, grabbing Jake and throwing him
onto the FOUNTAIN in the park. The water builds up--

BLASTING JAKE back into the air, where he SMACKS right back
into the ogre who blocks every one of Jake's moves, then
throws him back headfirst into the--

MOUTH OF THE HIPPO STATUES that line the park.

SAM - shakes his head.

152 HALEY
 Jake, I hope you don't mind, but
 I'm gonna try something a little
 different. Kay?

Haley walks up to the Ogre and strains to "Dragon up."

153 HALEY
 Dragon... up!

It takes her a little longer than for Jake, but Haley finally
 <POPS> into her dragon self. She flies up to the Ogre.

154 HALEY
 Hello, Ms. Ogre! My, that is the
 prettiest necklace I've ever seen!
 And you wear it so well.

The ogre blanches, then blushes, unable to hide a smile.

155 OGRE
 Don't make me look fatty-fat?

*

156 HALEY
 Oooh-noooo. Would you mind if I got
 a closer look?

*

THE OGRE - hands the gem to Haley.

157 HALEY
 Oh, thank you.

HALEY flies up and away from BIG BERTHA who falls to the
 ground banging her fists and feet like a small child throwing
 a temper tantrum.

*
 *
 *

158 OGRE
 The necklace is mine! Mine! Mine!

*
 *

159 HALEY
 I gooot iiiit!
 (to Sam)
 Did you want a picture of that?

*

160 SAM
 You bet, little lady.

JAKE - pulls himself out of the hippo's mouth, and sees Haley
 is getting her picture taken with the gem. Off his frown...

CUT TO:

EXT. MAGUS BAZAAR - LATER THAT DAY

JAKE and HALEY stand side-by-side at booth, doling out soup to a line of DOWN-ON-THEIR-LUCK CREATURES. Haley talks to Sam who hangs on her every word.

161 HALEY

I believe in outreach. Making sure we're a positive force in the magical community. That's why I volunteer for this magical soup kitchen twice a month.

Jake rolls his eyes and mimes gagging himself.

162 HALEY

Because, deep down, I care.

TWO SMALL PIXIES flutter up to the counter with tiny little soup bowls as--

163 JAKE

I CARE! SINCE WHEN DO I NOT CARE?!

--Jake, turned to Haley and Sam, doesn't notice and drops a whole ladle of soup where a larger creature's bowl would be. It spills ALL OVER THE PIXIES.

ON A PIXIE - thumbing his nose at Jake.

164 PIXIE

Hey! What's the big idea?!

*

FIVE NEARLY IDENTICAL PIXIES - attack him.

165 JAKE

Ow! Hey! Back off! Stop it!

HALEY - steps in.

166 HALEY

Jake! Stop being such a bully. Just because you're bigger than these pixies, doesn't mean you're better.

167 PIXIE/SAM

Yeah!/ You go sister.

*

*

THE PIXIES CHEER - and fly under Haley picking her up on mass for a victory lap.

168 PIXIES
Yayy! Wooohooo! For she's a jolly
good draaaagooooon!

Sam pushes Jake out of the way.

169 SAM
(terse)
Excuse me, you're in my shot.

170 JAKE
But, I've given up my whole seventh
grade to saving magical creatures.
This is so unfair!

FLASH POP - as SAM snaps pictures. Jake slumps as we...

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - THAT AFTERNOON

A depressed Jake walks into Grandpa's shop. Fu points excitedly to Marty's back as Marty walks out of the room. He has a sign on that says, 'KICK ME'.

171 FU DOG
Huh-huh? Who's the man?
(then, pondering)
Dog? Man-dog? That just doesn't
sound right.

Fu notices something on his back.

172 FU DOG
Hey, what the..?

He turns around and finds a sign that says 'KICK ME HARDER'.

173 FU DOG
Okay, that's it! I'm going down to
Ha-Ha's Magical Prank Shop and I'm
gonna find a prank that'll get
Marty once and for all!

That sounds like a pretty good idea to Jake.

174 JAKE
Magical Prank Shop...?

CUT TO:

EXT. MAGICAL PRANK SHOP - ESTABLISHING - DAY

175 TRIXIE (V.O.)
Why're we here exactly?

INT. MAGICAL PRANK SHOP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They walk through the aisles. There are EXPLODING UNICORN HORNS, GIGANTIC HAND BUZZERS, PLASTIC GIANT POOP, and ATTACHABLE DRAGON WINGS. *

176 JAKE
Because Haley stole my spot on the cover of MagicWeek. It's time for a little payback.

Spud puts his arm around Jake's shoulder.

177 SPUD
Dude, as a former model myself, I knew this would come to no good.

178 TRIXIE
Former model? Pullleaaase.

179 SPUD
It's true. I was the cover baby for Droopy Diapers magazine when I was four months old. And man, did it go to my head. I threw *temper* tantrums, made my mother feed me with a bottle. I wouldn't even wipe my own tuchus! *

180 TRIXIE
Spud, that's all normal baby stuff. *

181 SPUD
<sigh> Finally, I had to learn the lesson that my diapers were as smelly as the next baby's. Hey, look at those tee-- *

Spud turns and twists a key on the side of a pair of GIANT CHATTERING TEETH that are a bit more menacing than most pair. The teeth start to CHASE SPUD around the floor. *

182 SPUD
Aaaaaahhh! Help me! Help me! *

As the teeth chase Spud back and forth in the background, Trixie and Jake keep walking.

183 TRIXIE
 Anyway, you sure you wanna pull a
 prank on Haley?

184 JAKE
 Totally. Just one teensy, harmless
 prank to make up for years of her
 making a fool out of me.

FU walks down the aisle in front of them. He picks up A CAN --

185 FU DOG
 Hmmm, no - too obvious.

-- and tosses it to Trixie. She opens it and THREE LIVE SNAKE-
 LIKE CREATURES spring out <HISSING> and <SPITTING> at her. *
 She has to work to get them back in the can. *

186 TRIXIE
 <surprised yell>

Fu grabs A ROUND CANDY SUCKER and hands it to Trixie. *

187 FU DOG
 Try this.

Trixie puts it in her mouth. Her face starts to twist.

188 TRIXIE
 Echt! What is that funk-o-rama? *

189 FU DOG
 A giant toe-jam flavored sucker.
 You can't believe how close it
 tastes to the real thing.

Trixie raises a horrified eyebrow at Fu, then spits it out *
 and grabs A BOTTLE OF WATER. She chugs it, but spit-takes. *

190 TRIXIE
 Pfffftttt! That rank tastes like
 meat rottin' in a wet fridge!

191 FU DOG
 That's bottled Hudson River Water.
 (sees something)
 Now, *this* has possibilities.

He pulls out a GRIM REAPER COSTUME.

192 TRIXIE

Fu, I don't mean to get down on
your choice there, but... Marty is
the Grim Reaper.

193 FU DOG

Yeah, but he hasn't always been.
That guy had one dead end job after
another--

*
*

INSERT - FLASHBACK QUICK MONTAGE: 1) The Grim Reaper scanning
cans at a SUPERMARKET 2) The Grim Reaper handing an ice cream
out of an ICE CREAM TRUCK playing scary <WARPED MUSIC>. 3)
The Grim Reaper at a large HOME IMPROVEMENT SUPERSTORE. He
has an orange bib and hard hat on and is driving a small
forklift by the GARDEN SECTION. Flowers wilt as he passes.

*
*
*
*
*
*

BACK ON - Fu and Trixie.

*

194 FU DOG

Then he landed the gig as death.
Never been happier. But, he had to
tap out the guy who was the Grim
Reaper before him.

*
*
*

(re: costume)

Oh yeah, this is gonna do the
trick.

SPUD comes around the corner in full terror mode, still being
chased by the teeth, which are about to catch him.

195 SPUD

<terror shrieks>

THE TEETH - take one last snap and catch Spud's pants, but
they run out of steam and stop there.

196 SPUD

Ah! My tuchus!! Is it still there?
<sniff> Does anyone smell dirty
diaper?

*
*
*

JAKE - alone, picks up a box, reads the label and smiles.

*

197 JAKE

"One pinch of 'DragonGiggles' and
dragons lose control of their
powers... livens up any dragon
party." (beat) Or photo shoot...

*

CUT TO:

EXT. NYC ROOFTOP - GOLDEN HOUR

A PHOTO SHOOT - Haley is the center of attention. PIXIE ASSISTANTS finish her make-up and brush her ponytails.

*
*

198 ASSISTANT 1
A wing shine and scale spritz and
you'll be runway ready.

*
*
*

JAKE - pours a little DragonGiggles into a bottle of water, then takes it to Haley.

199 JAKE
Those lights'll really dry your
skin out. Better hydrate.

200 HALEY
Thanks, Jake. For not being
threatened by my natural dragon
abilities.

*

Haley walks over to get a final hairspray fix from one of the assistants. Trixie turns to Jake.

201 TRIXIE
Are you sure you wanna go through
with this?

202 SPUD
(shaking his head)
Remember - your diapers stinkarino
just like everyone else's.

Jake looks at them and sighs, then walks towards Haley.

203 JAKE
<sigh> Maybe you're right. (then)
Haley, there's something I have to--

204 HALEY
There's something I have to tell
you too.

205 JAKE
You first.

206 HALEY
Well, I told *my* people to ask *their*
people if they could put you in the
article, too. And they said yes!
Look, they sent me a mock up...

*

HALEY - hands Jake a spread of PICTURES: 1) Jake in the hippo mouth. 2) Jake after the explosion 3) Jake angrily raising his ladle at a small frightened pixie. The TITLE READS: AMERICAN DRAGON - REPTILIAN HERO OR ZERO? YOU DECIDE. *

JAKE - lowers the mock-up from his eyes, silently fuming.

207 HALEY
So, what did you have to say to me?

208 JAKE
Bottoms up. *

Haley holds her bottle out as a cheers to Jake, and drinks.

209 SAM
Ready, Haley?

HALEY - DRAGONS UP and stands in the middle of a MAGICAL PHOTO SHOOT - FIREFLY-LIKE CREATURES create the lighting. A LARGE WINGED HORSE creates wind. Sam starts to FLASH pictures like a fashion photographer. *

210 SAM
Work it. Work it. Let me see your best dragon face. I wanna feel your fire. *

FLASH - INSERT PHOTO - Haley 'farting' fire.

211 HALEY
What's going--?

212 ASSISTANTS
<giggling>

213 SAM
I was thinking more of a *mouth*/fire thing.

214 HALEY
Okay, I'll just... <exhales>

Haley opens her mouth and breathes. Bubbles come out. Jake has to stifle his own laughter. *

215 SAM
Uh, not exactly what I had in mind.

HALEY blows up like a BLOWFISH and starts to float. The Assistants have to grab her tail to keep her down. *

216 HALEY
I don't know what's happening to
me!

SAM flashes as Haley CHANGES COLOR, SILLY STRING SHOOTS OUT
HER NOSE, and FIRE BURSTS FROM HER EARS. *

217 ASSISTANTS/JAKE/TRIXIE/SPUD
<laughter>

JAKE - looking satisfied, until:

218 ELF
Aaaaahhhh! hobgoblins! Run for your
liiiiife! *

The space clears, leaving Haley and Jake as--

A GANG OF RAMPAGING HOBGOBLINS pulls themselves up the side
of the building and onto the roof.

219 HOBGOBLIN 1
<growls> Dragons hurt hobgoblins. *
Hobgoblins make pain. Dragon pain. *

220 JAKE
Time to hobnob with the hobgobs. *
Dragon up!

Nervous, Haley tries to steel herself.

221 JAKE
Get ready for your close-up, hobby!

JAKE - leaps in the air knocking two huge KLEIG LIGHTS over
on a hobgoblin. They SPARK as TWO MORE HOBGOBLINS charge *
Jake, cutting him off from Haley.

222 JAKE
How ya doin', Hales? *

HALEY turns to see the HOBGOBLINS bearing down on her. She
can't help it - she screams.

223 HALEY
<Scream!> Jake?! I can't control
myself. <two forced exhales>

HALEY tries to blow fire, but two tiny blasts come out of her *
ears. A trickle of smoke comes out of her mouth. *

224 HOBGOBLIN 2 *
Dragon girl. She did flippy hurts. *

225 HALEY
 Oh-no...
 (to herself)
 Come on, Haley. Have to get away.
Fly!

She tries to fly, but her wings shrink to TINY WINGS.

226 HALEY
 What's happening to me?

She tries to go hand-to-hand with the goblins, but HER ARMS *
 SHRINK DOWN to her girl arms, but her feet become extra huge. *

227 HALEY
 Noooo! Jake, I can't fight them off. *

ON JAKE - more hobgoblins surround him.

228 JAKE
 Hold on, Haley!

229 HALEY (O.C.)
 I can't! <shrieks> *

Jake takes takes rolls of film and throws them up hitting *
 them with his wings like a baseball. They are thrust towards *
 the hobgoblins, tangling them up. Jake takes flight. *

230 JAKE
 Haley?! HALEY!!

QUICK SHOTS - as Jake searches the rooftops-- Haley is *
 nowhere to be seen, but Jake hears...

231 HALEY (O.C.)
 Jake - HEEEEEEELP!

Off Jake's frantic look we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - BACK ROOM - NIGHT

*

Jake, Sun, Fu and Grandpa (AS HUMANS) stand talking.

232 GRANDPA
(angry)
Why weren't you watching after your
sister?

Sun steps between them.

233 SUN
Don't be too hard on him, Lao Shi.
This isn't his fault.

234 JAKE
Actually... it is.

*

Jake hangs his head as Grandpa turns to him and places his
hand on his shoulder.

*

235 GRANDPA
Jake, there is no time to waste.
You must tell us what happened.

*

236 JAKE
I gave Haley a powder that made her
lose control of her powers. We
gotta go save her!

*

*

QUICK SHOTS - Grandpa's disappointment, Sun's shock. Jake
starts to move, but Grandpa grabs his shirt.

*

237 GRANDPA
Sun and I will go.

Grandpa and Sun turn to go. Jake starts to follow them.

238 GRANDPA
You have done enough. Stay here.

Grandpa and Sun leave through the front door. Jake paces,
then corners Fu.

*

239 JAKE
Fu, you have to help me find her.

240 FU DOG
What part of 'stay here' didn't you
understand?

*

241 JAKE

The part where I leave Haley out
there in the hands of those
hobgoblins. Fu, this is all my
fault. I have to fix it.

<TOILET FLUSH SFX> As MARTY walks out of the bathroom (back
door) with a newspaper. Fu sees him.

242 MARTY

Would it kill you guys to replace
the TP every once in a blood-red
moon?

243 FU DOG

(to Jake)

I hate to say it, but Marty can
help us.

Jake takes with genuine fear.

244 JAKE

Marty?

245 FU DOG

Yeah, he knows the location of any
soul in mortal danger. Right?

246 MARTY

Yeah, doesn't mean I'm gonna get
the call, just professional
courtesy, so to speak. I heard
about your sister twenty minutes
ago.

MARTY hands Jake a small MAGICAL COMPASS (re-use).

247 MARTY

(concerned)

This'll tell you where she is. I
hope you get to her before I do.
Good luck.

Fu pats Marty on the back.

248 FU DOG

Thanks, buddy.

Fu and Jake leave out the front.

Just then, there's a KNOCK AT THE BACK DOOR. Marty gets up,
and opens to door to see--

ANOTHER GRIM REAPER standing and pointing at Marty.

249 MARTY
 Wha--?!
 (light-headed)
 Is it getting hot in heaaaaaUMPFT!

Marty passes out. The second "Grim Reaper" pulls back its hood, revealing an ELF perched on ANOTHER ELF'S shoulders.

*

250 ELF
 All right, prank delivered. Now
 let's see the greenbacks, Fu.
 (looking around)
 Fu...?

CUT TO:

INT. HOBGOBLIN LAIR - NIGHT

THE HOBGOBLIN'S LAIR is below the ground in one of the tunnels that parallel the subway system. Haley is hanging from the ceiling, tied with old rope. Four hobgoblins throw pieces of trash at her <LAUGHING>.

251 HOBGOBLINS
 <laughter>

252 HOBGOBLIN 1
 Time for hurt her.

*
 *

253 HALEY
 (forced bravado)
 Hope you fight better than you
 conjugate sentences hob...rob --
 oh! How am I supposed to think of
 something snappy to say when I'm
 about to be slain?!

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

The HOBGOBLINS close in on her.

*

254 HALEY
 <squeals of fear>

*
 *

A BRICK hits one hobgoblin then bounces off and hits the other.

255 JAKE (V.O.)
 You hobgoblins really are dumb as
 bricks.

*

JAKE LANDS NEXT TO HALEY holding another brick that he lets loose. He rips Haley's bonds off, and helps her up.

256 HOBGOBLIN 1
Break dragon! Break it now!

*

257 JAKE
Dragonz. Plural.

Jake FLIES, KNOCKING a HOBGOBLIN into the barred exit door/turnstile, then pushes the door around.

HALEY - cowers in the corner.

258 JAKE
(to Haley)
Come on, sis. Let's show 'em what we can do.

259 HALEY
(scared)
But, I c-can't!

260 JAKE
Sure, you can. Take my tail.

HALEY AND JAKE - hook tails to each other and lift up flying in a circle. As they spin each other around they create what looks like a rotary saw. They smash three hobgoblins out of the way.

261 HOBGOBLINS
<various impact grunts>

262 HALEY/JAKE
<various impact grunts>

263 JAKE
Let's see how they like the flip side.

JAKE goes back-to-back with Haley and hooks arms with her. He bends over, flipping her over his back just as a hobgoblin rushes them. She knocks him into the track.

264 JAKE
Express to Painsville, pulling into the station.

JAKE knocks a hobgoblin back just in time for him to get hit by the front of a train. As he hurtles off down the tracks--

265 HALEY
Here's a small token of my
affection!

HALEY takes on a hobgoblin on her own, and SMACKS it into the turnstile.

THE TURNSTILE - flips around, hitting the hobgoblin over and over in the head --

266 HOBGOBLIN 2
<quick, sharp impacts>

267 JAKE
That's the hit that keeps on
hitting! You got skillz, girl.

268 HALEY
Thanks, Jake. You're a good
teacher.

269 JAKE
Now there's something we can agree
on!

Jake and Haley fly up into the sky. As they go--

270 JAKE
Glad you're okay, sis.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - NIGHT

JAKE stands before Grandpa and Sun. Haley is nearby.

271 GRANDPA
You put your sister in harm's way.

272 JAKE
I just wanted her to know what it
was like to-- (beat) I have no
excuse.

Jake hangs his head.

273 JAKE
Haley shouldn't just be taking my
cover, she should be taking my job.
I don't deserve to be the American
Dragon. I guess it's just one more
thing she's better than me at.

Haley steps forward, struggling with a confession of her own.

274 HALEY
Actually, I'm... not.

275 JAKE
Huh?

276 HALEY
That powder you gave me wore off in
five minutes. But I still couldn't
control my powers. I was just so
scared, I couldn't remember
anything I learned.

*
*
*
*

277 SUN
But you're the perfect dragon!

278 HALEY
No one can be perfect at
everything. Not even *me*. (beat,
respectful) Jake's just a better
dragon than I am.

Grandpa pats Haley's head.

279 GRANDPA
I'm afraid Haley is still too
young, too inexperienced, for the
kind of danger the American Dragon
must face.
(to Jake)
And you, young one, are a very
gifted dragon whom I would never
replace... for anyone.

280 JAKE
(smiling)
Thanks, Grandpa.

281 GRANDPA
But that doesn't mean you cannot be
punished!

Jake backpedals, not liking where this is going.

*

282 JAKE
Yeah, so about the gifted dragon
part...

*
*

OFF GRANDPA shaking his head we...

*

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT

Jake scrubs the giant vat of witches' pus with his Dragon Tongue. He looks O.S. to the front of the shop.

283 JAKE

Ugh! Gramps, where do you even get
the pus of 1000 witches' boils?!

*

284 GRANDPA (O.S.)

How is your dragon tongue cleaning
and talking at the same time?

FU is at the back door, where the "Grim Reaper" Elf is handing him back his Reaper costume.

285 FU DOG

Balthazar, you are a true prank
artiste.

286 ELF

I do what I love, and I love what I
do. Where's the cash?

FU gives him money, then notices the elf has a copy of MagicWeek Magazine. He shoves another bill at him.

287 FU DOG

For the 'zine.

He shuts the door and walks in looking at the COVER. On it, Jake is battling the hobgoblins. It's a hero shot.

288 JAKE

Sweet. Teen idol, here I come!

FU - has it open to the CENTERFOLD.

289 FU DOG

And no one'll ever have to ask you
if you wear boxers or briefs.

FU DOG - turns the picture around to show a HUGE PHOTO of Jake RAISING THE ROOF in his underwear.

290 JAKE

Aw, man!

FADE OUT.

END SHOW

*